CLAIMS

1. A polymer composite particle comprising a metal oxide coated with a silicone and/or fluorine compound, wherein the metal oxide has an average particle diameter of 1 μm or less, the polymer composite particle being obtained by polymerizing a crosslinking agent and a vinyl monomer, wherein the vinyl monomer contained is in an amount of not less than 25% by weight based on 100% by weight of the sum total of all the monomers and the crosslinking agents, and wherein the vinyl monomer has a solubility parameter of less than about 8.9.

2. A polymer composite particle comprising a metal oxide coated with a silicone and/or fluorine compound, the metal oxide having an average particle diameter of 1 μm or less, wherein a cosmetic comprising said polymer composite particle in an amount corresponding to 5% by weight of the metal oxide and 1% by weight of 2-ethylhexyl 4-methoxycinnamate by weight of the cosmetic, resulting in the cosmetic having an SPF of 7 or more.

3. The polymer composite particle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the vinyl monomer having a solubility parameter less than about 8.9 comprises an alkyl(meth)acrylate having a straight-chain or branched alkyl group which has 8 or more carbon atoms and may optionally be fluorinated.

4. The polymer composite particle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the vinyl monomer having a solubility

parameter of less than about 8.9 comprises a dimethyl polysiloxane compound having a radical polymerizable group at one terminal of a molecular chain.

5. The polymer composite particle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the vinyl monomer having a solubility parameter less than about 8.9 comprises an alkyl(meth)acrylate having a straight-chain or branched alkyl group which has 8 or more carbon atoms and may be optionally fluorinated and a dimethyl polysiloxane compound having a radical polymerizable group at one terminal of a molecular chain.

6. The polymer composite particle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the metal oxide is one or more types selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, titanium oxide, cerium oxide, and mixtures thereof.

7. The polymer composite particle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the content of the metal oxide is from 25 to 90% by weight of the polymer composite particle.

8. The polymer composite particle according to claim 1, wherein the content of the crosslinking agent is from 0.1 to 75% by weight based on 100% by weight of the sum total of all the monomers and the crosslinking agents.

9. A method of producing the polymer composite particle as claimed in claim 1 or 2, the method comprising the steps of:

dispersing and mixing a metal oxide coated with a silicone and/or fluorine compound, a monomer component comprising a

vinyl monomer having a solubility parameter less than about 8.9 and a crosslinking agent, and

suspension-polymerizing the mixture.

10. A cosmetic comprising the polymer composite particle as claimed in claim 1 or 2.

11. Use of the polymer composite particle as claimed in claim 1 or 2 for cosmetics.

12. A cosmetic composition comprising the polymer composite particle as claimed in claim 1 or 2, further comprising other cosmetic components, and a cosmetic carrier.

13. A cosmetic composition comprising the following components(A) and (B) and the cosmetic as claimed in claim10:
(A) a microparticle metal oxide having an average primary particle diameter of from 0.001 to 0.1 μm and (B) a flake zinc oxide having an average size of from 0.1 μm to 1 μm and an average thickness of from 0.01 μm to 0.2 μm.

14. The cosmetic composition according to claim 13, wherein the flake zinc oxide as component (B) is contained at a ratio by weight of from 0.05 to 0.4 to the metal oxide contained in said component (A) and said polymer composite particle.